

A. G. McDonald, Detroit, Mich.

October 12, 1893.

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Mr. McDonald represents the Buffalo Fish Co. at this place. Is one of the principal owners of this agency. They have a large freezing and storage house here, and are receiving and shipping large amounts of fresh fish all the time.

He believes thoroughly that the fisheries on the American side of the lakes should be subjected to regulations.

To enlarge the size of the mesh in the cribs of the pounds as now proposed on the Canadian side would result in gilling a large proportion of the fish, which would not reach them in so good condition, and would make it difficult to empty the pounds. No small herring are now taken in the pounds and consequently there could be no object in so

enlarging the mesh.

No. 1 herring are those weighing above 55 pounds to 100 fish. 62 pounds to 100 fish would indicate large herring.

The true cisco are only obtained in Lake Ontario and in the northern part of Lake Michigan.

They also call the herring of Lake Erie cisco. A very large quantity of these is smoked. They are mostly smoked by individuals along the shore, each working on a small scale. Many are smoked in the vicinity of Detroit.

Thinks there should be a close season for herring and whitefish (in Lake Erie at least) beginning about November 10 or 12. Thinks that the pickerel should be protected in the spring. This is the wall-eyed-pike.

Believes in the policy pursued by Canada, with regard to the protection of the fishery.

Carp were planted by the Michigan State Commission. Thinks a mistake was made in

planting them in the river and lake. There is nothing in them commercially. The most that they obtain are sent to New York.

Very little fishing is done in the Detroit River, but more in Lake St. Clair.

Carp have not yet got into Lake St. Clair, but it has a great abundance of cat fishes.

There is now very little sturgeon fishing in the Detroit River, except right at its mouth. This fishery has been overdone. Some are still taken in Lake St. Clair. He handled all that were taken there last year.

The herring are above all others the fish most deserving of protection in Lake Erie. They are the cheapest fish and furnish the biggest trade.

Sturgeon and pickerel are the species least deserving of protection, on account of the damage they do to other fishes.

The sturgeon in Lake Erie spawn mostly in June.

The Buffalo Fish Co. will not buy sturgeon measuring less than 4 feet long, and the fishermen might as well return to the water all specimens of smaller size.

The sturgeon fishery of this region never amounted to much until they began to utilize the caviar. 140 kegs of caviar were packed by this Company at Detroit in 1892, but only 70 to 80 kegs this year. There are 140 pounds to a keg. It is mostly sent abroad for final preparation. The sturgeon meat is mostly smoked in this region.

Many complaints have been made against the pounds off Sandusky, as interfering with navigation, but could not give us any definite information about it. However, the direct travel between the Detroit River and eastern end of Lake Erie goes to the north of the islands.

The leaders of the pounds have a 7 and 8

inch mesh. The smaller or No. 2 herring will pass through this, and he thinks they do. This is sufficient protection for them as regards regulations for size of mesh. The mesh of the hearts, tunnel and crib may be as small as you please.

In the north end of Lake Michigan they use 6 inch mesh gill nets for salmon trout, and also take a few whitefish in them in the fall.

This company has refused to purchase salmon trout weighing less than 1 1/2 pounds, dressed, from the fishermen on the Canadian side of Lake Huron. These fishermen have been increasing their catch lately by the addition of many small trout, which are not saleable, and are not received in good condition; when they have been taken at Detroit, it has been necessary to throw many of them away. We were shown some of them.

Lake Superior has not yet been developed to any extent, and so far they have not been

sending many good fish from there.

The principal fish taken in the Lake of the Woods are sturgeon. C. G. Neilson, of Sandusky, controls the fisheries on that lake. They could not handle the whitefish from that lake, on account of the length of time now required to get them to market.

Pounds and fyke nets are used in Lake St. Clair. They take only cheap fish in the spring. Get only an inconsiderable amount of black bass from that source, and generally only a stray one. Never above 50 pounds a day. They do not care to deal in this species, and would just as soon not receive any. If the sportsmen desire to protect it for exclusively game purposes he would have no objections.

The State has passed a law which draws a line through their part of Lake St. Clair. On one side of this line no market fishing is allowed.

Black bass are more abundant about Pelee

Island than most anywhere else.

This firm would not take or deal in No. 2 whitefish if they could help it, and would be in favor of protecting that size if it could be done suitably.

Herring are the fish of the poor people and they are more generally distributed than any others of the lake species. They are sent as far south as Georgia and Tennessee, and westward beyond Omaha.

The herring is the fish to be protected in Lake Erie, and whose interests should especially be looked after. All the whitefish necessary can be secured from the other lakes. This has always been the principal herring lake, although many more whitefish used to be taken from it than are now.

All the spawning of both the herring and whitefish takes place at the western end of Lake Erie.

The fishery is being destroyed on the

south side of Lake Erie. Free fishing in Canada (offer of Canadian Minister of Fisheries) would do the same harm as is now being done on the American side. They are now making a good living on the Canada side.

November 10 to 12 is late enough to begin the close season everywhere in Lake Erie. It should not be set as late as November 20 to 25.

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